GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:865
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001
IMPORT OF MARBLE
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import marble;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; (

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to promote the domestic marble industry; and (

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) : As per Exim Policy in force, import ofpolished marble blocks, slabs and tiles is free. Import of rough marble blocks/slabs, which was under SIL List till 31.3.2001 is under the Restricted List at present and its import can only be made against an import licence to be issued in this regard. These licences are issued to the eligible applicants by the EXIM Facilitation Committee (EFC) which is an inter-ministerial Committee designated for this purpose.

(c) & (d): The development of domestic Marble Industry is primarily the concern of respective State Governments.However, a Group on marble development (GMD) has been constituted in the Ministry ofMines which works under the overall supervision of the Granite Development Council primarily to assess and review the status of marble quarries and recommend measuresfor speedy development of this mineral. This group also assesses the technology employed in this sector and suggests measures for upgradation of technology and for increasing value addition in marble, marble products and exports. The central excise duty structure is also designed to promote the industry.

Marble Industry has also been extended all the facilities availed by the small sector in general. Government has also extended 12% back ended capital subsidy to marble SSI units if these units go for technology upgradation under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme. Moreover, a national programme for development of Stone Industry including Marble Industry has also been promoted by the Government in association with the State Governments of Rajasthan & Gujarat in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).